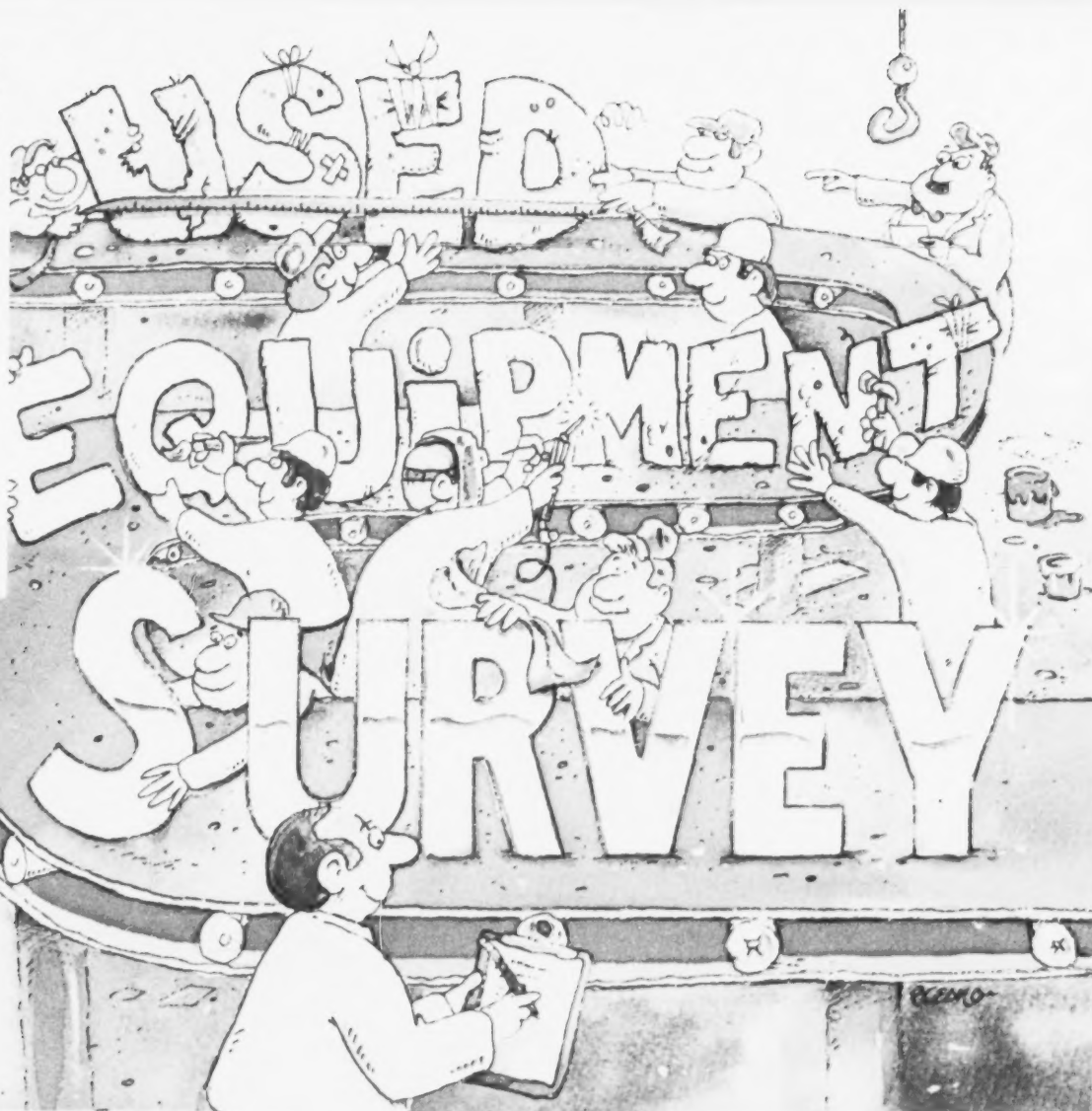


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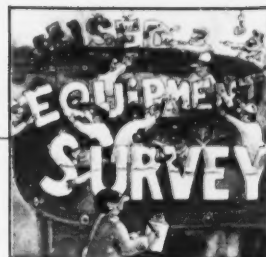


paper board packaging

FEBRUARY 1984 VOLUME 69, NO. 2

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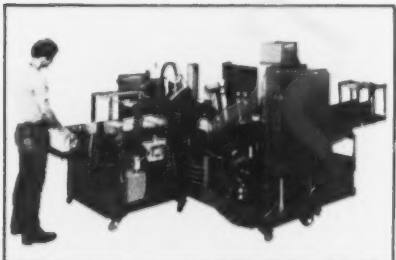
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April: Managing a Corrugated Box Plant/Flexography

May: AICC Hall of Fame Winner/PPC, NP&PA Awards

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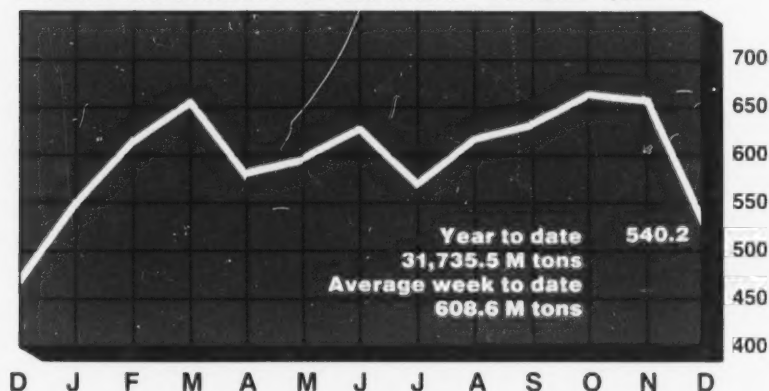
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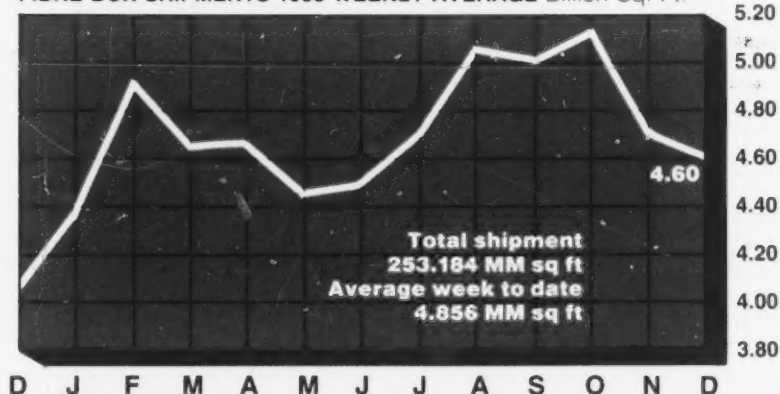
PAPERBOARD PRODUCTION 1983-WEEKLY AVERAGE 1,000 Tons



PAPERBOARD MILL OPERATIONS:

Initial data for 1983 indicate an approximate 31.7 million short tons of total paperboard production, up 9% from recessive 1982, and nominally above the previous all-time record high total of 31.5 million in 1979. This result, not only unpredicted but unexpected even as one watched it develop, concluded with a fourth quarter volume more than 10% higher than all previous records for that period. This upsurge in business is also reflected in production of corrugated containers, which also set a new annual record for shipped footage.

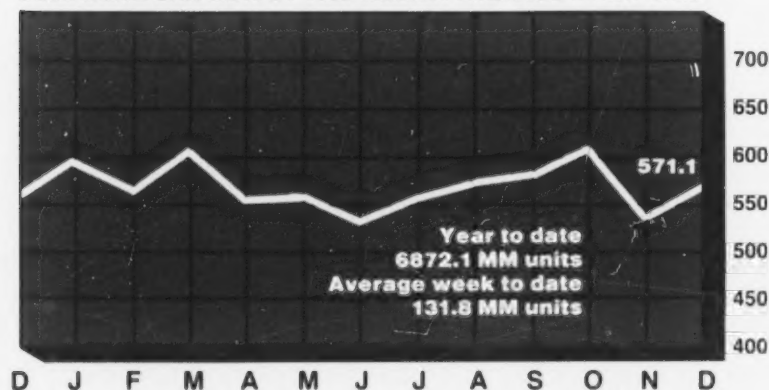
FIBRE BOX SHIPMENTS 1983-WEEKLY AVERAGE Billion Sq. Ft.



PAPERBOARD-TYPE PRODUCTION:

U.S. output in 1983 included 74% of containerboards, about six percentage points over traditional average. The disparity is due to some, if faded, export demand plus the decline of boxboard packagings under invasion from alternate materials. It is seen that boxboard gains during cyclical upturns in business no longer fully recover their losses during recession. One victim of this evolution is the area of fiber reclamation for recycling. In spite of all campaigns, no upturn is visible in the waste paper area; total tonnage is down from earlier years.

COMPOSITE CAN OUTPUT 1983-WEEKLY AVERAGE Million Units



RIGID PAPER BOXES:

Set-up box billings ended 1983 nearly 10% above '82, which had been more than 6% below '81 for the first annual decline since that 10% drop in depressed 1975 from '74—following a half-decade of increases averaging 7½% per year. At 1983-end, all of the NP&PA's regional areas were ahead of the previous year's billings, compared with only two at 1982-end—and some of those deficits were well into double digits. Further, the margins of increase widened in the more-recent months, suggesting that this rigid-box upturn is fully parallel with that of other board packagings.